

THE EXAMINER;

Published Weekly, on Jefferson St., next door but one to the Post Office.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

PAUL SEYMOUR,

PUBLISHER.

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

We referred some weeks ago to a case which would bring up this question, and promised to give the reports upon it. As yet, we have received only one side, and of that we proceed to give a synopsis.

The case was this:

"That Pacheco was the owner of a negro slave named Lewis, who was hired by an officer of the army, duly authorized, from his owner, as an interpreter and guide to the defeated command of Major Bado. That he was one of the few survivors of the disastrous defeat of that command, and remained either voluntarily, or as a captive amongst the hostile Indians, until the spring of 1838, when he accompanied Jumper, a Seminole chief, to one of our military posts in Florida; that he was then claimed by his owner, and the military commander, in whose control he was, refused to deliver him to his owner, and ordered that he be sent with the Indians to the West; because he deemed his transportation proper inasmuch as he was considered capable of exercising an influence over the Indians; and thus, in pursuance of the order, he was transported to the West, and the owner thereby deprived of his value."

The committee, or the minority of the committee, John Dickey, James Wilson, David Fisher, Dudley Wilson, present these views:

First, admitting Lewis to be property, an

compensation can be granted for him. A military

officer binds the Government as far as his

legitimate authority extends, and no further.

This is an admitted rule. Had the officer who

sent Lewis beyond the Mississippi authority

to bind his government by such act? If he

had been an ox or cart, no doubt would be felt.

The officer would have had authority to hire,

purchase, or impress oxen and carts to transport

his baggage or provisions—but none whatever

to send them out of the country. There was

no "taking of Lewis for the public use." He

was not "used" by the public now in the West.

Nothing was taken or used, the act of the officer

does not bind the Government—it was his act,

and not his alone is responsible, even admitting

Lewis to be property.

But, second, the great question involved in

this relates to slavery—to the Constitutional

relation which the Federal Government and the

States hold to the institution.

1. As to the character of slavery.

War was once regarded as the only honorable

occupation of man. Slavery grew out of it.

It was regarded by most writers as one of the

resulting consequences of war. Prisoners were

held by physical force; if they could escape they

were free. And to effect their escape they

could use any means within their power, provided

they did not injure innocent persons.

The prime practice of seizing the unoffending

people of Africa followed the abrogation of the

barbarous usage. They were torn from

home and friends, and had the right to escape

by any means which God and nature had put

in their power. This right descends to their

offspring. They owe no allegiance to our Govern-

ment—all their feelings, interests, are opposed to it,

and the master who holds them as slaves,

Lewis, therefore, had the moral right to annihilate

his servitude, and he became free the moment

he joined the enemy, for then the local

laws of Florida ceased to act upon him.

If he had been slain, in battle, the United

States could not have been held liable to his

master. When, as one of our enemies, he submitted

to our arms, he was a prisoner of war, entitled

to the same privileges of the other prisoners.

The officer in command could make no

distinctions. The terms of capitulation applied

to all alike. These were, that they should

emigrate West of the Mississippi. No exceptions

were made. (See Dec. 25, 25 Congress.)

The petitioner claimed him. By what right?

He was free. He was one of the enemy. And

by no act of Florida or the Federal Govern-

ment could he be enslaved. Besides, if the Petitioner

had a right to Lewis, why did he not assert it

before competent judicial authority in Florida? He cannot take advantage of his own

neglect. Again, Lewis is neither maimed nor

killed—why does he not assert and try the right

to him now? These objections, the minority

report consider fatal to the petitioner's claim.

But there are other and graver objections.

To grant the petitioner's claim—would be to

acknowledge by Congress that slaves are property.

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?

Can Congress Recognize Slaves as Property?